

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes**

December 3, 2014

**Board Attendance Record**

William Dryburgh (112/122)  
Katherine Ariens (33/36)  
Maria Greenberg (48/52)  
Paul Bigness (9/16)  
John Hitzel (47/50)  
Fred Pazona (31/40)  
Lou Agosto (1/1)

**Present**

William Dryburgh  
Katherine Ariens  
Maria Greenberg  
Paul Bigness  
John Hitzel  
Fred Pazona  
Lou Agosto

**County Representatives**

Tommy Scott, Director  
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager  
Monty Rodriguez, Foreman, Parks  
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

**Guests**

None

**Call to Order**

Chair Bill Dryburgh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

▪ **Chairman announced opportunity for public input on agenda items**

- None

▪ **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the November 5, 2014, were unanimously approved.

▪ **Division Reports**

*November staff report was distributed by email to members before the meeting.*

- John Hitzel – Tringali skating, new gym floor, skating will be outdoors in hockey rink
- Katherine Ariens suggested having an instructor available for skating lessons. Can we add? Maureen Broderick stated that is a great idea and she will look into it.
- Fred Pazona – Swimming pools – Suggested letter to pass holders; renovations are way ahead of schedule.

▪ **New Business**

- Lifeguard Scholarship Program
  - Recruiting is more challenging for seasonal and part time employees. The Scholarship Program now, for a commitment to work for 6 months starting to work better for us. Co-opting? North Port and Charlotte County work together. 20 hrs each, HS & some adults, now seasonal, NP and CC work together, now seasonal residents are workers for us. Trying to find solutions to our staffing problems.
  - Paul Bigness – contact swim programs, good source and Englewood YMCA flyer there. Tommy, gradually expanding our circle of contacts.
- BMX – National Qualifier BMX Racing Event on February 11-13, 2015
  - Shawn Doherty – 2 BMX racing events, January 2-4 and February National Qualifier;

Amanda Carr worked for 3 years to get it here, February National Qualifier Amanda Carr worked for 3 years to get it here.

- Snowbird Classic starts February 6, 2015. Comments that where are we going to put all these visitors.
  - Katherine Ariens has offered her home for any of the visitors of this event, should they need housing.
- Sailing Regatta at Port Charlotte Beach in October 2015
  - Port Charlotte Beach will be the hub for 9 International teams and 19 foot long sailboats in October of 2015. Popular sport in Charlotte County. Community Sailing Association program is growing, into schools.
  - Katherine Ariens asked about volunteers and noted that she is willing to help. Brian Gleason's group is heading up this event.
- Topics for Joint Workshop February 2015
  - We will coordinator mutually important topics to all three committees. Mooring fields will be on the agenda and Floating Docks at Port Charlotte Beach.
  - Katherine Ariens noted this is a problem with our sea grasses from anchors and waste. Looking for the state to bring monies to help fund these mooring fields.
  - Bill Dryburgh felt that we should go into the meeting asking for funding for some item.
  - After discussion, it was decided to send discussion topics for the Joint Workshop to Tommy and then they can be whittled down at the January meeting.
  - Paul Bigness – feels the mooring fields are important; the issue is safety. Paul feels we should make suggestions of what is needed for the Harbor Walk project.
  - John Hitzel feels the mooring field is good for Parks & Recreation because it will require a harbormaster at Chadwick Park.
  - Tommy Scott talked about the Historical Center building eventually needing to come down and a concept of a band shell in this location.
- Tampa Bay Rays Ambassador Program
  - Last year we campaigned to be the #1 Spring Training Facility and we won, in part, to distributing flyers at the game.
    - Looking to have members involved to interact with customers and engage.
    - March 15<sup>th</sup> first Ray's game.
    - Having more time this year to come up with handouts and exploring our options.
- **Old Business** - None.
- **Sports Council Update**
  - Fast meetings, no new items to discuss. No meeting in December, next is January 2015 meeting.
- **Member Issues**
  - John Hitzel asked about the list of usage at our facilities; Tommy said it would be ready for the next meeting. John also stated the reappointment date on the BCC member roster was wrong.
  - Lou Agosto mentioned that we need to get the kids outside instead of on the computer games; he commended the parks staff for the well-kept fields for kids.
  - Fred Pazona – staffing - focus on retired people as staff – Tommy talked about our recruiting process online, now we are going to start putting adds in the newspaper, but they will have to go back to the website to apply. Triathletes are a good choice as staff; older workers are more responsive and dependable.

- Bill Dryburgh noted that he represented the committee at the Harold Avenue Ribbon Cutting, it was a great event.

▪ **Director's Report – Tommy Scott**

• **Update on Parks Master Plan**

- Tommy Scott reported they are recruiting stakeholders for the meetings. Wieler will be documenting what we have – in late January public meetings, surveys, to get as much public input as possible.
- Budget cycle, now building. Input from Advisory Board – member input needed, staff working on what's important from staff, reprioritizing the list from two years ago for next meeting. CIP list will be distributed again to members
- Paul Bigness wants to know when there are cost savings, where any extra monies are being spent. Tommy Scott said we did give a significant amount of money back last year. The year before we needed more monies to complete needed projects.

▪ **Citizen Input**

- None

▪ **Announcements**

- None

**Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m. Several members of the board took a tour of the Charlotte Sports Park facilities and the Rays clubhouse. See attached pictures.

CC: Commissioner Ken Doherty, District 1  
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2  
Commissioner Bill Truex, District 3  
Commissioner Stephen Deutsch, District 4  
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5  
Raymond Sandrock, Administrator  
Kelly Shoemaker, Deputy County Administrator